



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, WA 98101-3188

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL
ADMINISTRATOR

November 12, 2021

Ms. Amy van Saun
Senior Attorney
Center for Food Safety
917 SW Oak Street, Suite 300
Portland, Oregon 97205

Ms. Jean Mendoza
Executive Director
Friends of Toppenish Creek
3142 Signal Peak Road
White Swan, Washington 98952

Ms. Tarah Heinzen
Legal Director
Food and Water Watch
917 SW Oak Street #404
Portland, OR 97205

Ms. Kristina M. Sinclair
Center for Food Safety
West Coast Office
303 Sacramento Street, 2nd floor
San Francisco, CA 94111

Dear Ms. van Saun, Ms. Mendoza, Ms. Heinzen and Ms. Sinclair:

Thank you for your correspondence dated October 26, 2021, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Administrator Michael Regan, transmitting a petition requesting that the EPA act using emergency authority in Section 1431 of the Safe Drinking Water Act to investigate and address persistent nitrate groundwater contamination in the Lower Yakima Valley, Washington. The Administrator has asked that I respond on his behalf. The EPA is reviewing your petition. My staff will contact you shortly to ensure that Region 10 has all available information related to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Kenknight, Chief of our Water and Field Enforcement Branch, Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, at (206) 553-6641 or Kenknight.Jeff@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Michelle L. Pirzadeh
Acting Regional Administrator